

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-35 (canceled)

1       Claim 36 (currently amended): A dock leveller comprising:  
2            a frame having an extension hinge for pivotal movement along  
3            a first axis and a first pivot connection defining a second  
4            axis, the respective axes oriented at a first spacing there  
5            between;  
6            a deck coupled to the extension hinge having a deck plate  
7            with a deck upper surface;  
8            a lip having a lip upper surface, the lip upper surface and  
9            the deck upper surface forming at least a part of a transport  
10          path;  
11            a lip hinge coupled to the lip and the deck for relative  
12          pivotal movement of the respective lip and deck upper surfaces  
13          along a third axis that is oriented a second spacing from the  
14          first axis;  
15            a second pivot connection operatively coupled to the lip and  
16          defining a fourth axis that is oriented with respect to the lip  
17          hinge ~~second~~ third axis identical to the first spacing; and  
18            a transmission member pivotally coupled to the first and  
19          second pivot connections, establishing an operable spacing between  
20          the ~~third~~ second and fourth axes that is identical to the second  
21          spacing in at least one mode of operation, so that the four  
22          respective axes define vertices of a parallelogram.

1       Claim 37 (previously presented): The dock leveller recited in  
2       claim 36 wherein the maximum overall relative pivoting range of  
3       the respective lip and deck upper surfaces is approximately 14  
4       degrees.

1       Claim 38 (previously presented): The dock leveller of claim 36,  
2       wherein the deck upper surface operative pivoting range relative  
3       to the platform is no more than approximately 7.5 degrees.

1       Claim 39 (previously presented): The dock leveller recited in  
2       claim 36 wherein the stiff element comprises a variable length  
3       element.

1       Claim 40 (previously presented): The dock leveller recited in  
2       claim 39 wherein the variable length element comprises a  
3       pressurized fluid cylinder.

1       Claim 41 (previously presented): The dock leveller recited in  
2       claim 36 wherein the lip hinge comprises an elastically deformable  
3       material.

1       Claim 42 (previously presented): The dock leveller recited in  
2       claim 36 wherein the extension hinge comprises an elastically  
3       deformable material.

1       Claim 43 (withdrawn): A method for operating a dock leveller that  
2       is coupled to a platform, wherein the dock leveller has a deck  
3       pivotally coupled thereto, the deck having a deck upper surface  
4       that defines a range of pivotal motion relative to the platform,  
5       a lip having a lip upper surface, the lip pivotally coupled to  
6       the deck for relative pivotal movement of the respective lip and  
7       deck upper surfaces, the lip upper surface and the deck upper

8 surface forming at least a part of a transport path with at least  
9 a portion of the platform; and a transmission member coupled to  
10 the lip for orienting the lip upper surface, the method  
11 comprising:

12 pivoting the deck plate relative to the platform and  
13 manipulating the transmission member for maintaining a generally  
14 constant lip upper surface orientation angle with respect to said  
15 portion of the platform throughout the deck upper surface pivotal  
16 range.

1 Claim 44 (withdrawn): The method of claim 43 further comprising  
2 additional transmission member manipulation for selective  
3 repositioning of the lip upper surface relative to the deck upper  
4 surface.

1 Claim 45 (withdrawn): The method of claim 43, wherein the maximum  
2 overall relative pivoting range of the respective lip and deck  
3 upper surfaces is approximately 14 degrees.

1 Claim 46 (withdrawn): The method of claim 43, wherein the deck  
2 upper surface operative pivoting range relative to the platform is  
3 no more than approximately 7.5 degrees.

1 Claim 47 (withdrawn): The method of claim 43, further comprising  
2 declinating the deck upper surface relative to the platform, so  
3 that the deck plate is capable of establishing a downwardly  
4 sloping transport path from the platform to the lip upper surface.

1 Claim 48 (withdrawn): The method of claim 43, wherein at least a  
2 part of the platform within the transport path is generally  
3 horizontal and the lip upper surface orientation relative to said

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4 part of the platform is within 2 degrees throughout the deck upper  
5 surface pivotal range.